REVIEWS

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REVIEW

Plants of the Oregon Coastal Dunes. By ALFRED M. WIEDEMANN, LA REA J. DENNIS, and FRANK H. SMITH. 117 pp., illus. O.S.U. Book Stores, Inc., Corvallis, Oregon, 1969. \$1.95.

In recent years there has been an increasing variety of inexpensive popular books that deal with the plants in various regions or habitats of the Pacific coast states. The present book is concerned with plants of the Oregon coastal sand dunes and with some of the climatic and geological features of these dunes. It is directed at "the visitor to the sand dunes, regardless of his background." The coastal sand dunes of Oregon are perhaps the best developed of those of any of the Pacific coast states and support an interesting flora that attracts the attention of ordinary vacationers as well as more experienced natural historians. The first portion of this attractive little book is concerned with the physical setting of coastal dunes and their vegetational history. Subsequent chapters deal with plant communities and succession and the use of plants for stabilizing dunes. The final chapters present a key to about 90 characteristic dune plants and descriptions and black and white photographic illustrations of half of these plants. The quality of the photographs generally is good, although some of them-such as those of Rumex maritima var. fueginus, Cakile edentula var. californica, and Lonicera involucrata-are not as informative as they might be. The level of accuracy is high and the format is a pleasing one, although I suspect that the level of presentation is somewhat too high for the average citizen.

This book might be considered superfluous to P. A. Munz's *Shore Wildflowers* of *California, Oregon and Washington* issued by the University of California Press in 1964. However, I think that because of its extensive discussion of the ecology of coastal dunes and its low price, the Wiedemann, Dennis, and Smith volume should be considered as a complementary volume—if not a replacement in Oregon—for the Munz book.—ROBERT ORNDUFF, University of California, Berkeley.